




Apple Impact Accelerator

A program for Black-, Hispanic/
Latinx-, and Indigenous-owned
businesses



Apple's California Flats solar farm

A man wearing a white hard hat, safety glasses, and a tan work shirt is standing in a field of tall grass, working on a large array of solar panels. The panels are mounted on metal frames and extend across the background. The scene is set in a rural area with a clear sky.

We believe all businesses have a responsibility to work to advance a carbon neutral future.

To ensure that our work to protect the planet also helps advance equity, Apple developed the Impact Accelerator for Black-, Hispanic/Latinx-, and Indigenous-owned businesses. The Impact Accelerator expands access to opportunity by ensuring that our investments in sectors like renewable energy, carbon removal, recycling innovation, and smarter chemistry also help fight systemic barriers impacting communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental issues like climate change.

The Impact Accelerator

Apple's Impact Accelerator is designed for Black-, Hispanic/Latinx-, and Indigenous-owned businesses that share our focus on innovation and our commitment to the environment. With customized training, access to Apple experts, and an expanding alumni community, our Impact Accelerator is tailored to support companies as they achieve their next stage of development.

The program is open to environmental solution and service providers headquartered in the United States that are at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by an African American, Hispanic/Latinx American, or Indigenous American individual, validated by their Supplier Diversity certification.

Join us as we redefine business as usual.

Our Program

"Inequality can't be ignored. We're committed to helping create the positive outcomes communities of color deserve."

— Lisa Jackson, Vice President, Environment, Policy and Social Initiatives

We've set an ambitious goal to reduce our impact on the planet we all share: By 2030, Apple has committed to becoming carbon neutral — going beyond our corporate emissions reductions to our products and supply chain. Our Impact Accelerator is a key part of this strategy. Participants will benefit in the following areas:

Targeted training

Customized training and coaching focused on providing the knowledge and tools needed to succeed as an Apple supplier.

Access

Direct access to Apple experts to help identify strategic partnership opportunities that align business priorities with Apple's environmental goals.

Executive skills

Executive training in support of leaders. Participants will have the opportunity to design the program to meet their needs and interests.

Alumni network

The Impact Accelerator is just the beginning. After completing the program, companies will transition into our Supplier Success community. Impact Accelerator alumni will have access to Apple Mentors, as well as invitations to networking events and other continuous growth opportunities.

Join Us

Key dates

As you complete your application to the Impact Accelerator, refer to these important dates:

March 14, 2022	Opening date for applicant submissions
April 30, 2022	Submissions due no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific time
June 1, 2022	Shortlisted candidates notified for interviews
June 17, 2022	Finalists notified
July 5, 2022	Accepted candidates confirm participation
August 1–October 28, 2022	Impact Accelerator program period

Eligibility

The Impact Accelerator is a capacity-building program for United States–headquartered companies that are at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by an African American, Hispanic/Latinx American, or Indigenous American individual. Eligible companies are late-stage startups or mature firms and organizations with innovative solutions, applications, or processes that are in late-stage development or have reached commercial-scale deployment and can contribute to one or more of Apple's [environmental priority areas](#). To be considered for participation, all applicants must agree to the [Apple Impact Accelerator Application and Attendance Policy](#).

Cost

There is no cost to participants.

Evaluation criteria

Finalists will be evaluated based on the following:

- Your submitted application
- Alignment of your company's solution or service with Apple's environmental priorities
- An interview with the Impact Accelerator team

How to apply

All applications will be submitted through Apple's online [Prospective Supplier Portal](#).

Questions?

ImpactAccelerator@apple.com

Solution Categories

Our environmental pillars — climate change, resources, and smarter chemistry — outline goals for what we want to achieve, as well as the types of solutions and service providers we're seeking to help us meet these ambitions. For additional details on Apple's environmental initiatives, check out our [website and Environmental Progress Report](#).

Climate Change

Today, Apple is carbon neutral for our corporate emissions. By 2030, we've committed to becoming carbon neutral across our entire supply chain and products. We'll get there by reducing our emissions by 75 percent compared with 2015, and by investing in carbon removal solutions for the remaining emissions.

Energy efficiency

The cleanest energy is the energy we don't use. To increase energy efficiency at our offices, data centers, and retail stores, we start by designing buildings to optimize energy use. And we maintain building efficiencies throughout the life of the facility.

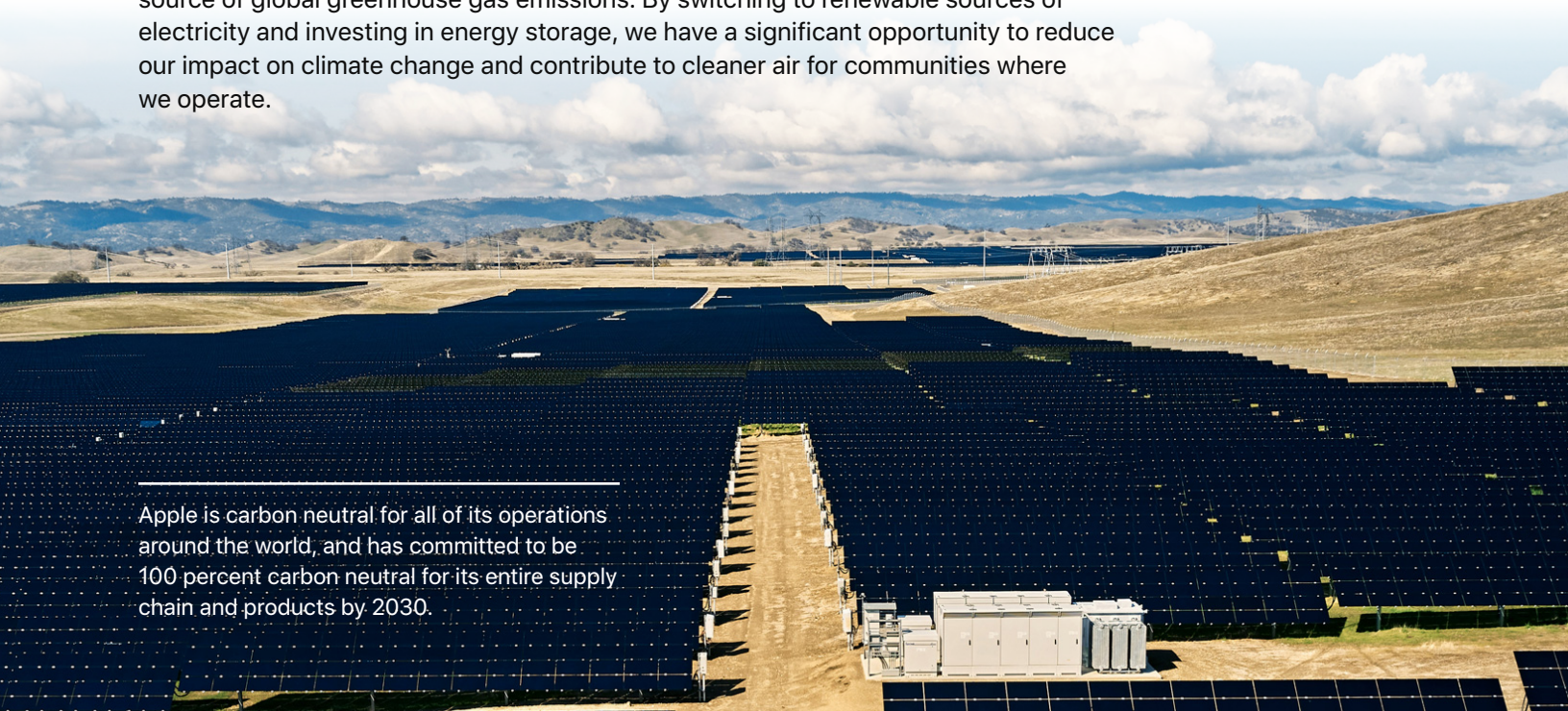
Another significant opportunity to make an impact on energy efficiency is with our suppliers. As with our facilities, we prioritize optimizing energy use and then shifting to renewable energy sources.

In the area of energy efficiency, Apple is seeking companies that offer:

- Design, delivery, and optimization of high-efficiency building systems
- Expertise in energy modeling and analysis
- Carbon reduction design
- Innovative energy efficiency educational programs

Renewable energy

The burning of coal, natural gas, and oil for electricity and heat is the largest single source of global greenhouse gas emissions. By switching to renewable sources of electricity and investing in energy storage, we have a significant opportunity to reduce our impact on climate change and contribute to cleaner air for communities where we operate.



Apple is carbon neutral for all of its operations around the world, and has committed to be 100 percent carbon neutral for its entire supply chain and products by 2030.



Our retail stores, data centers, and offices around the world currently source 100 percent renewable energy. We're also working to transition our entire supply chain to 100 percent renewable energy.

Strong candidates for the Impact Accelerator program are ready to partner with Apple to develop solutions such as:

- Long-term renewable energy power purchase agreements
- Strategic investments in technologies like solar and wind
- Innovative applications for micro grids, energy storage, community solar, and utility-scale operations and maintenance

Direct emissions abatement

In instances where we cannot reduce the demand for a specific process or material, we tackle emissions reduction through technological improvements. This could mean point-of-use abatement, altering a process to significantly reduce the associated emissions, or switching fuels to a low-carbon source.

Companies that have deployed or are developing the following technologies are strong candidates:


- Emissions elimination and reduction for manufacturing processes
- Low-carbon transport innovations
- Supply chain emissions tracking tools

Carbon removal

Nature provides some of the best tools to remove carbon from the atmosphere, including forests, wetlands, and grasslands. When we look at the portfolio of solutions that will be required to become carbon neutral — not only for Apple but for the entire planet — we know nature-based solutions will play a critical role.

We welcome candidates that are leading in the creation of nature-based carbon removal projects, such as through:

- Sustainably managed forests, wetlands, and grasslands
- The expansion of green urban landscapes
- New carbon removal technologies



Nano-ceramic crystals used in the Ceramic Shield technology featured in the iPhone front cover

Resources

We aim to make products and packaging using only recycled or renewable materials. At the same time, we're committed to stewarding water resources and sending zero waste to landfills.

Recycling technologies and automation

We don't believe a lack of technology should hold us back from conserving resources. When an Apple device can no longer function as originally intended, its parts and accessories may still have more to give. For the parts that cannot be reused or repaired, we're designing new technologies to unlock the useful materials inside them.

Candidates for our Impact Accelerator program include businesses leading in the development and deployment of innovative recycling solutions such as:

- Automation components and systems integration
- Computer vision, data science, software development, machine learning, and robotics
- Scrap material size reduction techniques, commodity separation systems, material conveyance solutions, and maintenance and repair

Recycling operations and services

In addition to partnering with companies that are developing technologies for the future of recycling, we'll work with companies that are providing leading recycling operations and services using these innovative technologies.

We're looking for companies that offer:

- Successful electronic waste recycling or ITAD operations
- A strong focus on high recovery rates
- Excellence in operational efficiency, such as through the use of Lean methodologies
- Adherence to the highest standards of environmental compliance and employee health and safety

Water stewardship

We give a lot of thought to how we use water at Apple. Our operations use water in many different ways, from our relatively low-impact retail stores to more water-intensive data centers and suppliers' manufacturing facilities. And, as climate change increasingly impacts availability, quality, and access to global water resources, we continually examine our usage in each of these contexts.

In support of Apple's ongoing efforts to reduce water use at our facilities and suppliers' facilities, we're interested in companies with:

- Water treatment, efficiency, and reuse solutions for process water, cooling, irrigation, and domestic use applications
- Experience in developing nature-based replenishment projects to help restore ecosystems


Zero waste

The work we're doing to rethink how we use materials isn't limited to our products. We take a comprehensive view of what we consume as a company — from coffee cups to hard drives to shipping pallets. When we think of the use of these items circularly — finding ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle — we better serve our ultimate goal of keeping waste out of landfills.

In support of our zero-waste goals, we've established the Supply Chain Zero Waste and the Corporate Zero Waste Programs. To support these programs, we're expanding partnerships with firms that offer:

- Zero-waste design and alternative packaging solutions
- Take-back solutions
- Certification to reduce material consumption and introduce more recycled and recyclable materials into our products

Apple is focused on addressing the water footprint of our corporate sites and our suppliers' sites.

A black rectangular sign with white text is placed in a natural setting with tall grass and shrubs. The sign reads: "To conserve water, this campus uses recycled water. Do not drink." The background shows a body of water and a distant shoreline with some structures.

To conserve water,
this campus uses
recycled water.
Do not drink.

Smarter Chemistry

Safer materials make for safer products — and a better world. This belief has driven our efforts to remove harmful chemicals from our products — and from the processes of designing, making, using, and recycling them.

Product chemistry

Each Apple product results from an intentional design process that prioritizes the safety of our materials and manufacturing processes. In fact, safer products make for more sustainable products — their materials can be more readily recycled without concern for future exposure to harmful chemicals. To this end, we continually work to create innovative products that meet our high standards of safety, and we place special attention on materials that come into contact with skin.

In this area, we're looking for partners that provide solutions and services in:

- Chemical alternatives and innovative material technologies
- Identification and reduction of the life-cycle environmental health and justice impacts of product and material design

Protecting people and the environment through green chemistry

Protecting the health and safety of people working in our supply chain requires closely examining the chemicals used in our manufacturing processes, implementing rigorous safety measures in our facilities, and selecting safer materials from the start.

In support of these efforts, we're exploring collaboration with research partners and laboratory services that provide solutions in:

- Materials testing
- Analysis of potential environmental health and justice impacts of materials used in our manufacturing
- Design of safer process chemical formulations for manufacturing applications
- Comprehensive chemical hazard reviews and risk assessments
- Chemical reference systems and chemical Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) training applications
- Integrated chemical EHS management systems



Apple Supplier, Easton, Pennsylvania

Additional Opportunities

Innovation is at the center of everything we do at Apple. As part of the Impact Accelerator initiative, we're excited to collaborate with universities, nongovernmental organizations, and incubators around the United States to create a robust network and ecosystem of growth opportunities for environmental innovators.

Organizations, including minority-serving institutions (MSIs), that are leading in any of the environmental areas outlined above and are interested in exploring strategic partnerships with Apple on the Impact Accelerator may send their proposal to reji@apple.com.



Apple Supplier, Willow, Michigan

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Apple's Impact Accelerator?

The Impact Accelerator is part of Apple's Racial Equity and Justice Initiative, which focuses on efforts that address education, economic empowerment, and criminal justice reform in the United States. Apple's Impact Accelerator supports Black-, Hispanic/Latinx-, and Indigenous-owned businesses and innovations that drive positive outcomes in our supply chain, while empowering communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental issues.

What types of businesses are eligible?

The Impact Accelerator is open to United States-headquartered environmental solution and service providers that are at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by an African American, Hispanic/Latinx American, or Indigenous American individual, validated by their Supplier Diversity certification.

Will the Impact Accelerator provide funding to projects?

Apple will assess investment opportunities on a case-by-case basis.

Is there a cost to participate?

The Impact Accelerator program, which will be delivered remotely in 2022, is offered at no cost to participants.

If a company is accepted into the Impact Accelerator, how long should they expect the engagement to last?

The Impact Accelerator will be a 12-week commitment for participants. All businesses that complete the Impact Accelerator will be invited to join other program alumni in our Supplier Success community.

Will the Impact Accelerator be an online experience?

In light of COVID-19, Apple has adopted flexible arrangements for its offices around the globe. The Impact Accelerator program will be an online experience in 2022. Similar to the innovation that Apple applies to its products, our priority for the Accelerator will be to create an engaging experience for companies that are accepted into the program.

How can companies apply?

Companies that have a solution that meets the criteria outlined above may submit an application through Apple's online Prospective Supplier Portal [here](#) by April 30, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time.